

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
**Security Committee**

SECOM-D-166

8 April 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the DCI for  
Compartmentation

FROM: [REDACTED]  
Security Advisor APEX Steering Group

SUBJECT: Definition of COMINT

1. Following the 8 April 1980 meeting of the APEX Steering Group at which the NSA member and the representative of the SIGINT Committee presented a position that COMINT cannot be applied only to the product of the communications intelligence process, I reviewed the Communication Intelligence Security Regulation (CISR) and bring to your attention the definition of Communication Intelligence (COMINT) contained on page 1 Section 1 - Definitions. Definition number 1 says:

"Communications Intelligence (COMINT) -  
Technical and intelligence information derived  
from foreign communications by other than the  
intended recipients."

A copy of the appropriate section of the CISR is attached.

2. I am of the opinion that this definition clearly provides that COMINT is INFORMATION DERIVED FROM... and as such is truly an indication that COMINT is in essence and in fact a product, an intelligence production and not a system or a process or a procedure.

3. Accordingly, I believe that it is entirely proper to generically label a segment of APEX product as COMINT and to have that term apply only to the product of the communication intelligence process.



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Attachment

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